

# Direct and Indirect Objects

**2j.** A **direct object** is a noun, pronoun, or word group that tells who or what receives the action of a verb or shows the result of the action.

**EXAMPLE** Gayle visited an **island** in Florida. [Gayle visited what? Island.]

**2k.** An **indirect object** is a noun, pronoun, or word group that often appears in sentences containing direct objects. An indirect object tells *to whom* or *to what* (or *for whom* or *for what*) the action of a transitive verb is done.

**EXAMPLE** Give **Tish** and **me** your tickets. [Give to whom? Tish and me.]

**EXERCISE A** Decide whether the underlined words in the following sentences are direct objects or indirect objects. Above each underlined word, write *DO* for *direct object* or *IO* for *indirect object*.

**Example 1.** Who gave the <sup>*IO*</sup> teachers and <sup>*IO*</sup> students the maps showing the farm's location?

1. The juniors planned a trip to Belle Grove, a nineteenth-century farm.
2. Farm children performed many chores before school each day.
3. They gave the chickens feed and milked the cows.
4. All family members had specific duties in the barn and fields.
5. Farmhands scattered straw over the barn floor.
6. A blacksmith pounded the steel with his hammer.
7. He told us his experiences as the village blacksmith.
8. The students asked him many questions.
9. Farm women made lace and embroidered during the winter.
10. One woman showed me her handmade shawl.

**EXERCISE B** In the following sentences, underline direct objects once and indirect objects twice. Not all sentences contain both a direct object and an indirect object.

**Example 1.** The librarian showed my friend and me the biography section.

11. The Pulitzer Prize Board awarded Alex Haley a special citation for *Roots* in 1977.
12. In *Roots*, Haley presents a heroic saga about African Americans.
13. The book provides Americans some insight into the horrors of slavery.
14. Haley's book inspired a popular television miniseries.
15. Various organizations gave the miniseries prestigious awards.